

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government have taken seriously the presence of insecticides in the drinking water bottled under various brands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) propose to modify the norms of examination in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir the limits for pesticide residues have been prescribed for packaged drinking water *vide* item A. 33 Appendix-B of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules 1955, *vide* Notification GSR No. 554 (E) dated 18.7.2003, which are as under:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (i) Pesticide Residues | Not more than 0.0001 mg./litre |
| (ii) Total Pesticides Residues | Not more than 0.0005 mg./litre. |

(The analysis shall be conducted by using internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein).

The PFA Act 1954 and Rules made there under are implemented by State/UT Governments who take samples of food articles including packaged drinking water. In case of any violation of this Act/Rules, the penal action is taken under PFA Act 1954.

The standards became effective from 1.1.2004.

(c) and (d) As-per information made available by BIS there is no such proposal under consideration.

Rural posting of doctors

†2665. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make it mandatory for all the doctors to serve in villages for at least one year under the National Health Policy;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government have received the report of the Javed Chowdhary Committee constituted for making improvements in the health services;
- (d) if so, the details of the main recommendations thereof; and
- (e) the number of its recommendations which have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) A task Group had been constituted under Chairmanship of Mr. Javed Chowdhary. Ex-Secretary, MoHFW to make recommendations for augmenting the availability of medical professionals including revamping Medical Education with reference to the requirements under the National Rural Health Mission. The task group has submitted the following major recommendations:

1. Introduction of Modules on Social Sciences and Allied Disciplines at different stages of the graduate course and inclusion of a Rural Orientation Package.
2. Involving the Medical colleges in management of Public Health facilities;
3. Changing the format of Internships and spreading it over public health facilities in rural areas.
4. A three-year degree course -B.Sc. (Health Science) qualifying the students to be called Community Health Practitioners who would be linked to a MBBS graduate doctor for the purpose of referral.
5. Incentives for Government doctors so as to attract and retain them in Government cadres.
6. Reservation in post-graduate seats for Government doctors who have served in rural areas. Rural stint be made eligibility criteria for applying for PG
7. Relaxation of norms for setting up new Medical Colleges in high focus States.

The recommendations contained in the task Group are under consideration of the Government.